

REMARKS

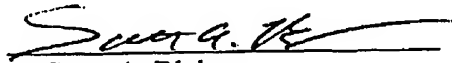
New independent Claim 21 defines the invention as a brake booster assembly that includes a brake booster including a housing having a wall, a mounting bolt that extends from the wall, and a clip that is engaged with the mounting bolt and is fixed in position relative thereto. None of the art of record discloses this structure.

Specifically, the Wang et al. reference discloses a brake booster assembly having a mounting bolt 4 that extends from a wall, but does not show or suggest a clip that is engaged with the mounting bolt 4 and is fixed in position relative thereto. Rather, the nut 8 is clearly not fixed in position relative to the mounting bolt 4 because relative rotation is necessary to tighten the nut 8 on the bolt 4. The retainer 10 is not engaged with the mounting bolt 4, but rather merely serves to support the nut 8 for such engagement. Thus, Claim 1 is clearly patentable over the Wang et al. reference.

The Myers reference also discloses a brake booster assembly having a mounting bolt 20 that extends from a wall, but does not show or suggest a clip that is engaged with the mounting bolt 20 and is fixed in position relative thereto. The Tinnerman reference discloses a fastening device that is initially inserted within an opening 17 to subsequently receive a threaded fastener 25. The Tinnerman fastening device is not properly combinable with the Myers brake booster assembly because both the mounting bolt 20 of the Myers brake booster assembly and the threaded fastener 25 of the Tinnerman reference are non-rotatable in use. However, relative rotation between the mounting bolt 20 of the Myers brake booster assembly and the threaded fastener 25 of the Tinnerman reference is necessary to secure them together. In any event, the threaded fastener 25 of the Tinnerman reference is clearly not engaged with the mounting bolt and fixed in position relative thereto, as specifically claimed. Thus, Claim 1 is clearly patentable over the Tinnerman reference.

Independent Claim 31 defines the invention as a combined vehicle panel and brake booster assembly including the limitations of Claim 21. For the same reasons set forth above, such claims are patentable over the art of record.

Respectfully submitted,



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